

stimulus was signed. I ask again, Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

BRINGING DOWN HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, a lot of us have gotten a good chuckle over the last few days over the PricewaterhouseCoopers study of the impact of the Senate Finance Committee health reform bill on health insurance premiums. I mean, after all, after only a few days, they had to come out and say, well, we really didn't analyze the whole bill, and in fact if some of the cost reform measures were put into place, we would save money.

But they missed the important point. The most important point is that the Senate Finance Committee bill doesn't include the public option that provides real competition for America's health insurance companies. The House bill, H.R. 3200, does include that public option competitive force.

As I was home over the weekend, I talked to many people who just opened their renewal forms from their insurance companies and saw increases projected of 20, 25 and 30 percent. That is why the public option is so important.

We can bring down health insurance costs and we can provide competitive pressure on the health insurance companies if we adopt the public option in the House bill.

MEDIA GIVING PRESIDENT A FREE PASS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unemployment under President Obama is at a 26 year high. The last time unemployment was this high was when President Reagan took office.

Despite the similar unemployment figures during the Obama and Reagan Administrations, the media have treated President Obama far more favorably than they treated President Reagan, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute. BMI found that 91 percent of the stories mentioning the Reagan Administration and unemployment were negative, while only 7 percent of the Obama administration stories were negative. That is absolutely astounding. Furthermore, the networks connected the Reagan White House to negative job numbers almost twice as often as they have the Obama administration.

Why is the media giving President Obama a free pass? The media should report the facts, not play favorites.

PASS COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, America's Health Insurance Plans, the trade group representing the largest health insurance companies in this country, released a report. The insurance companies contend that health insurance reform will raise premiums on families by as much as \$4,000 in the next 10 years.

I am here to tell you this morning, Mr. Speaker, that this is simply not true. Just last week, the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax research group, released a report that said middle-class American families will see a savings of about \$1,900 from the House's health reform bill.

Insurance companies are worried that health insurance reform is going to cut into their profits. This report is a last-ditch effort to stop this Congress from providing real relief to the millions of Americans who already are struggling with the high cost of health insurance.

Even the company hired to produce the report has issued a statement saying that they produced a skewed report that analyzes only part of the bill because that is what the insurance industry paid them to do. That company has since distanced itself from this report.

This report completely ignores critical policies that hold down the cost of health insurance, such as the grandfather policy that allows you to keep the plan you have, affordability credits, and the health insurance exchange.

PROVIDING MORE FREEDOM AND BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I respect the President of the United States of America. I pray for this President often in my private devotions. But after months of extraordinary public opposition to a government takeover of health care, opposition that spontaneously drew more than 1 million people to the West Front of this Capitol just one month ago, President Obama spoke words this weekend that were, frankly, hard to take.

He said in his radio address, "What is remarkable is not that we have had a spirited debate about health insurance reform, but the unprecedented consensus that has come together behind it."

Unprecedented consensus that has come together behind a government takeover of health care? Well, maybe here in Washington, D.C., but not across America.

There is an unprecedented consensus. The American people are fed up with runaway Federal spending and government takeovers. And now that the committee work is done and both chambers of the House and Senate are

headed to the back rooms to write up health care reform, let's home and let's pray that the unprecedented consensus that will shape this bill will be based upon the consensus of the American people for more freedom and lower health care costs, and not the consensus in Washington for more government and higher taxes.

□ 1030

HAPPY HALLOWEEN TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just weeks before Halloween to unmask the health insurance industry. At long last they've revealed themselves to the American people as profit-mongers and protectors of CEO salaries.

For months, the industry engaged in a game of pretense. They danced with the President, the Congress and the American people, pretending that they care about reform. Now we see the industry and their lobbyists for what they are: a little shop of horrors. They're so opposed to reform that they're making up their own data, manipulating the results, and writing a so-called independent report to threaten the American people with increased premiums.

Mr. Speaker, this industry is not interested in health care or reform. For them it's profits, profits, and more profits at the expense of millions of Americans. Enough.

We have one message for the insurance industry, its lobbyists and millionaire CEOs: with or without you, we will achieve quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all Americans, with choice. What they've done is proved the need for a robust public health insurance option for real competition, affordability and accountability for the industry.

Let me close by thanking the health insurance industry for delivering this gift that proves that they can't be trusted. It's time for the industry to turn in their costumes. Happy Halloween. We're on to you.

HONORING THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 81ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues this morning in honoring the members of the Army National Guard 81st Brigade Combat Team and Air National Guard of the State of Washington on the completion of their recent deployment to Iraq.